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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 292155Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8903
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4544

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG UN SHUN PARM CS
SUBJ: 32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS
R
REF: A. STATE 205678, B. SAN JOSE 4409

1. SUMMARY: COSTA RICA'S VIEWS ON MOST UNGA ISSUES PARALLEL US'S. EXCEPTIONS ARE NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, IN WHICH SOME COSTA RICAN POSITIONS HAVE NOT YET FIRMED UP, AND WHERE COSTA RICA WILL LINE UP WITH THIRD WORLD - BUT MODERATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM, POLOFF AND ECONOFF MET SEPTEMBER 28 WITH ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS FERNANDO DEL CASTILLO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN POLICY MARTANCLIROS, AND HER DEPUTY, JAVIER SANCHO FOR SUBJECT CONSULTATIONS. ALL THREE WILL SERVE IN COSTA RICA'S UNGA DEL. SANCHO DEPARTS FOR NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 5; DEL CASTILLO, WHO WAS ALSO IN DELEGATION IN 1976 AND IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH MOST ISSUES, AND QUIROS WILL JOIN DELEGATION IN NOVEMBER (REF B).

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3. VICE MINISTER LED OFF EXPRESSING REGRET THAT MEETING NOT HELD EARLIER IN SEPTEMBER AS PLANNED, BUT NOTED THAT COMBINATION OF PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING, SPANISH MONARCHS' VISIT, IATTC CONFERENCE, AND PRESIDENT ODUBER'S VISIT TO UK CAUSED SLIPPAGE. VICE MINISTER ADMITTED THAT GOCR POSITIONS IN SOME ISSUES, AS RESULT OF PACE OF RECENT EVENTS, HAVE NOT BEEN WORKED OUT YET. FOR THIS REASON FORMIN FACIO WILL RETURN TO SAN JOSE FROM LONDON OCTOBER 7

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AND THEN GO BACK TO NEW YROK.

4. IN OUR PRESENTATION DCM OUTLINED GENERAL US OBJECTIVES AND POLOFF AND ECONOFF WENT THROUGH ISSUES USING TALKING POINTS. ON MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, SOUTHER AFRICAN ISSUES, AND DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS, THERE WAS VIRTUALLY TOTAL AGREEMENT IN US AND COSTA RICAN POSITIONS. DEL CASTILLO NOTED THAT FORMIN FACIO IN HIS SEPTEMBER 26 UNGA SPEECH (USUN 3326 NOTAL) ADDRESSED MANY OF THESE ISSUES, AND HE UNDERLINED COSTA RICA'S STANCE CONCERNING URGENT NEED TO LIMIT CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.

5. ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEL CASTILLO SAID THAT CONSULTATION ARE PROCEEDING IN NEW YROK ON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL (HE HAD NO DETAILS). HE ALSO STATED THAT US POSITION ON DECADE OF RACISM AND TORTURE MATCHED COSTA RICA'S.

6. COSTA RICANS EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH US VIEW ON ALL UN ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET ISSUES, AND TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF THEM, BUT SAID THEY ARE SKEPTICAL THAT ANYTHING WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING THIS GA. ONCE AGAIN THEY EXPRESSED THEIR STRONG VIEW THAT NUMBER OF CONFERENCES AWAY FROM UN HEADQUARTERS MUST BE REDUCED, AND THAT SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE COSTA RICA SIMPLY CANNOT AND WILL NOT SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ALL OF THEM.

7. PUERTO RICO ISSUE, ON WHICH COSTA RICA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED US POSITION (ON PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION) WAS RAISED, ACAKDEL CONFIDENTIAL

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CASTILLO REAFFIRMED THIS VIEW ON GUAM,COSTA RICANS ONCE AGAIN

TOOK NOTE OF US POSITION, BUT WERE NON-COMMITTAL. (THEY HAVE ABSTAINED ON PAST GUAM VOTES.)

8. EXPOSITION OF US POSITION ON ECONOMIC ISSUES ELICITED LIMITED COMMENTS. MOST NOTEWORTHY WAS DEL CASTILLO'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT CIEC DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS ARE PRODUCT OF SMALL GROUP OF COUNTRIES AND NOT NECESSARILY REFLECTIVE OF NATIONAL INTERESTS OF MANY NON-PARTICIPANTS. HE MENTIONED THAT SOME CONTROL OF AUDITING MECHANISM MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT COMPOSITION OF CIEC WAS ITSELF AN EFFORT TO REFLECT ALL COUNTRIES' INTERESTS AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, AGREEMENTS REACHED IN CIEC WOULD BE REFERRED TOAPPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, IE, IMF, WORLD BANK, UN, ETC, FOR APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION. DEL CASTILLO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUCH A PROCESS DOES PERMIT EXPRESSION OF VIEWS BY NON-PARTICIPANTS IN CIEC.

9. GOCR GRMPONDED TO OUR REQUEST FOR VIEQFPRE COMMON FUND WITH STATEMENT THAT POSITION NOT YET FORMULATED. EMBOFF REMINDED DEL

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CASTILLO OF DISCUSSION OF NSC OFFICIAL ROBERT HORMATS WITH FONMIN FACIO ON THIS SUBJECT DURING AMB YOUNG'S VISIT AND RECALLED THAT FACIO HAD DESCRIBED US POSITION AS LOGICAL AND REASONABLE.

10. COMMENT: AS WAS MADE CLEAR IN FACIO'S UNGA SPEECH AND AGAIN IN THESE CONSULTATIONS, COSTA RICA AND US HAVE AN HONEST MEETING OF

THE MINDS ON THE BROAD INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES. WHILE GOCR OFFICIALS WERE NONCOMMITTAL ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, THEY APPEARED WILLING TO TAKE MODERATE APPROACH IN DEALING WITH THEM AT UNGA. ALTHOUGH THIS APPROACH MIGHT WELL INCLUDE PUBLIC SOLIDARITY WITH GROUP OF 77 ON ECONOMIC ISSSUES WITHIN GP-77, GOCR WOULD LIKELY SIDE WITH THOSE LDC COUNTRIES FAVORING PRAGMATIC, PRACTICAL EFFORTS
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TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS. AT THE UNGA THIS YEAR, COSTA RICANS WILL EMPHASIZE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS AND IN GENERAL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LIVE UP TO THEIR IMAGE AS CONSTRUCTIVE THIRD WORLD MODERATES.
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